

# Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR COLBY COASH

District 27

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## COMMITTEES

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August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Tom Wheeler

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

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RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am a Senator in the Nebraska State Senate (Unicameral) for District 27, representing the residents of southwest Lincoln in Lancaster County. After learning that the combination of Comcast and Time Warner Cable promises to bring faster Internet service to homes and businesses alike and access to high speed Internet service to low-income families through Comcast's Internet Essentials program, among other benefits, all by a company devoted to diversity and inclusion, I am enthusiastic about the proposed merger.

I am dedicated to advocating for vulnerable Nebraskans, especially children and people with disabilities. I serve as the Chair of the State-Tribal Relations Committee and as a member of the Developmental Disability Oversight Committee, among others. Earlier this year, I sponsored a bill to require the Health and Human Services Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the State-Tribal Relations Committee to conduct a joint interim study on improving child welfare services for Native Americans. I also introduced a bill to create an Office of Public Guardian under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska judiciary and I am proud that the bill was signed by the Governor and that the Public Guardianship Act will become effective on January 1, 2015. The guardians and conservators from the new Office of Public Guardian, along with volunteers, will serve as guardians to wards of the state in situations where no family member or suitable adult is available.

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My focus on serving children and people with disabilities makes me excited about Comcast's Internet Essentials program. Eligible families (or guardians) will be able to procure low-cost high-speed Internet service as well as Internet security software and Internet training at no additional cost, which in turn will avail them of the myriad of educational and information resources on the Internet. I also find Comcast's record on diversity and inclusive practices impressive. For example, I understand that an independent Joint Diversity Advisory Council advises senior executives of Comcast regarding the company's development and implementation of diversity and inclusion initiatives, and includes representatives of the disability community. I've heard that Comcast's initiatives in this area range from a partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities to provide scholarships to students pursuing a degree in media, entertainment, telecommunications, film, or journalism to launching a dedicated customer support team for people with disabilities with customer service agents specially trained to assist with accessibility and general support issues.

As I believe that the merged Comcast/Time Warner Cable company will increase the quality and availability of the Internet to families and customer support services for people with disabilities, I hope you will approved the merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Coash", written in a cursive style.

Senator Colby Coash

✓ CC: Marlene H. Dortch